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JAN 29 2007

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 and 9-20 are pending in the present application. Claims 6-8 are canceled herein. Claims 1 and 16 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the claims in view of the following remarks.

Claim 8 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. In addition, claim 8 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Claim 8 has been canceled herein and therefore these rejections are moot.

Claims 1-7, 9-10, and 13-20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hyon (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0072108, hereinafter "Hyon"), in view of Torek (U.S. Patent No. 6,599,683, hereinafter "Torek"). Other dependent claims have been rejected over this combination in view of additional prior art.

Claims 1 and 16 have been amended to limit the method to the examples with the surfactants dodecyltrimethylammonium bromide (DTAB) or tetradecyltrimethylammonium bromide (TTAB). A cationic surfactant with bromide is not described in Hyon, Torek, Simons or Messick. For the bromides DTAB and TTAB, it is shown in the examples of the present invention that the resist lines retain their structure and damage to the resist lines is not observed (see paragraph [0025]).


Claims 2-5 and 9-15 depend from claim 1 and claims 17-20 depend from claim 16 and add further limitations. It is respectfully submitted that these dependent claims are allowable by reason of depending from an allowable claim as well as for adding new limitations.

Applicants have made a diligent effort to place the claims in condition for allowance. However, should there remain unresolved issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone Ira S. Matsil, Applicants' attorney, at 972-732-1001 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible. No fee is believed due in connection with this filing. However, should one be deemed due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge, or credit any overpayment, Deposit Account No. 50-1065.

Respectfully submitted,

1/29/07

Date



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